Petroleum and Petrochemcial Investment Regions

*121. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are establishing Petroleum ana Petrochemical Investment Regions (PPCIR) in identified ports, including Mangalore Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain major international oil companies have evinced interest in the proposed project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the prospective investors have aired some concerns over infrastructure constraints, multiple clearances, tardy litigation process and labour laws;

(f) if so, the details thereof and in what manner Government propose to address their concerns;

(g) whether like PPCIR, Manufacturing Investment Regions are also proposed to be established; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (f) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is studying the feasibility for setting up Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIR) andas of now, the policy is yet to be finalized.

(g) and (h) The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is also studying the feasibility for setting up of the Manufacturing Investment Regions (MIRs) in the country to provide quality infrastructure to encourage growth of manufacturing and the proposal is at conceptual stage.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister was to lay the foundation stone for this mega Petro-chemical project for oil

and natural gas on 22nd June, 2006. But, unfortunately, on that day, because of torrential rains, both the planes and Prime Minister and the hon. Minister could not land and went back cancelling the programme. Sir, there is a strong rumour that this project will be shifted from our State to some other State, from Mangalore to some other part of the country. Will the hon. Minister give an assurance in the House saying that this project will not be shifted to any other place and the Government will stand by its commitment?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is right. The Prime Minister's plane could not land in Mangalore. So, the trip was cancelled. But, as far as the project is concerned, the Government is committed to this project. This project also includes Special Economic Zone and several other projects including the implementation of the programme of Mangalore SEZ. As far as the Government is concerned, it is committed to this project. We will visit that place very soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Poojary, now you should be satisfied.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Yes, Sir. So far as the PPCIR, that is, petro-chemical investment regions are concerned, the hon. Prime Minister has set up a Task Force for identifying places in the country, that means, places in other States, for setting up these PPClR projects. Which are those places that have been identified?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, for this PPCIR task force has been forward under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, and, they are working out the details. It is still at a very initial stage.

Permission for opening bank branches in foreign countries

*122. SHRI AMAR SINGH:††
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a few Public Sector Banks have sought permission for opening up of their branches in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

---

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Amar Singh.